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Tajuk : Jabu Pledges To Help Unimas Get Teaching Hospital.

Jabu pledges to help Unimas get teaching hospital

High honour:

Jabu receiving the letter of appointment to become Unimas second Pro-Chancellor from Hatta, Kadim and the other deputy vice-chancellors.



KUCHING: Barely a day of his appointment as the second Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu is rolling up his sleeves to help the university and one of the items on his to-do list is to get a teaching hospital built.

He was aware that Unimas was trying to get the approval from the Federal Government to have a teaching hospital of its own and pledged to assist the university in its effort.

"I feel it is important for Unimas to have its own teaching hospital given its well established Faculty of Medicine and Health Science. Science and technology are advancing at a rapid speed and we need to be better equipped to keep up," he said after receiving his letter of appointment as the university's second Pro-Chancellor for two years.

Unimas Board of Directors chairman Datuk Dr Hatta Solhi and Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi presented the letter to Jabu, witnessed by the university's other deputy vice-chancellor.

Jabu said the university was not pressuring the Federal Government on the matter because it understood such project would require a huge budget.

However, he hoped to acquire the money in stages to get the project moving.

"We are not pressuring the Federal Government but what we want is to justify the need for us (Unimas) to have one and hopefully we will be made a priority."

Kadim said a teaching hospital could easily need around half a billion to build.

In past interview, he said Unimas had already produced close to a

thousand doctors and the faculty was awaiting news on whether it would be given priority over the other public universities to secure its submission for a teaching hospital.

He said for now, Unimas was making use of five hospitals, including Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), Sibu Hospital and Bintulu Hospital, for students to do their practical.

"To ensure quality in education involving medicine, you need a teaching hospital. We have applied for one long ago," he said then.

He said the faculty had an enrolment of 700 medical students at its off-campus building near SGH.

The faculty will shift back to the main campus by the end of this year.

On his appointment, Jabu said earlier that he had always prioritised education because he believed it

was the only avenue for Sarawakians to widen their horizons, understand and cope with their surroundings better domestic and globally.

He foresaw Unimas growing into a public university to be reckoned with given what it had achieved by far.

Jabu is the second appointed Pro-Chancellor for Unimas after Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who was appointed since 1997.

He is a graduate in Agricultural Science from Lincoln University New Zealand and also has a doctorate of Natural Resources from the same university for his contribution to the field of agriculture and natural resource management in Sarawak.

The official ceremony of his appointment will be held on Nov 9 in conjunction with the university's 17th convocation ceremony.